

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, I want to thank Eula Hall for her sacrifices and service on behalf of the people of Floyd County, KY. Her dedication and integrity are an inspiration to us all.

KATHRYN OPPERMAN

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kathryn Opperman on her installation as the President of the Montgomery County Association of Realtors.

Kathryn will now lead a group of 300 local real estate agents committed to outstanding ethical and professional service to the community. The organization, formed over 85 years ago, is the local arm of both the Pennsylvania and the National Association of Realtors. Kathryn was inducted as president at a ceremony on Friday, December 1, 2006.

Kathryn is an agent with the Century 21 Alliance in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania. She joined the Central Montgomery County Association of Realtors in 1986 and rose to various leadership roles before it merged with several local real estate groups to form the current association in 1998.

Kathryn has shown her commitment to the associations by serving on several committees, including the Technology, Finance, Grievance, Education and Professional Standards Committees. She was also appointed to the Board of directors in both organizations.

Kathryn currently holds the position of Vice President for the local group, and she serves as a Director and a member of the Standard Forms Committee for the Pennsylvania Association of Realtors.

In addition to the dedication she shows to her organization, Kathryn, a former nurse, volunteers her energy and time to the community through numerous church, civic, and charitable organizations. She balances all of her community commitments with caring for her two daughters and husband in Norristown.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Kathryn Opperman on her installation as the President of the Montgomery County Association of Realtors and extending best wishes for a successful tenure in leading this outstanding professional organization.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 523, H. Res. 1078, congratulating the St. Louis Cardinals on winning the 2006 World Series, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PANTEGO BIBLE CHURCH  
CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Pantego Bible Church for 100 years of service and involvement in the Fort Worth and Pantego communities. Pantego Bible Church is located in the 26th District of Texas.

Since opening the doors of a small, thatched shelter in 1906, Pantego Bible Church has encouraged the ministry, fellowship, and outreach of its members. Pantego Bible Church has grown through the years and now conducts services in a beautiful campus. Under the faithful guidance of their five senior pastors, Pantego Bible Church has flourished as a cornerstone of worship in our community for the past century.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent this congregation. I congratulate Pantego Bible Church as they celebrate 100 proud years of cultivating a commitment to ministry. I look forward to many years to come.

#### TRIBUTE TO NORMA R. HAGENOW

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Norma R. Hagenow as she is honored by the Boy Scouts of America Tall Pine Council. The Tall Pine Council has named Norma their Distinguished Citizen of the Year and held a banquet on November 30 to express their appreciation for her support over the years.

Norma Hagenow is a graduate of the Trinity Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing, received a bachelor of science in nursing from Milton College, and has a master's degree in business administration from Indiana State University.

After serving as the vice president of Care with Carondelet Health System in Tucson, AZ, Norma also was vice president of operations for the Mercy System in Des Moines, IA. She came to Genesys Health System in January 1999 as the executive vice president and chief operating officer and assumed the presidency in May 2001. In addition to her position with Genesys, Norma is also the president and senior partner of CenterPoint, LLC, a healthcare consulting firm in Arizona; serves as adjunct faculty with several universities; and has written course curriculums at these schools.

She has had several articles published in national journals, contributes to the National Public Policy dialogue at the Brookings Institute, serves as chair of the Certificate of Need Program for the State of Michigan, was appointed by Governor Jennifer Granholm to the State of Michigan Council for Labor and Economic Growth, and was a health care expert on the United States Secretary of Labor's Committee on Changing Demographics in the Workforce from 2002 to 2004. As a member of the national level Clinical Excellence Team for

Ascension Health, Norma has direct input into the operations of the largest non-profit healthcare delivery system in America.

Since her arrival in the Flint, MI, area she has been very supportive of the Tall Pine Council, the Boy Scouts of America and the Annual Friends of Scouting Campaign. The Tall Pine Council serves over 16,000 youngsters in Genesee, Lapeer and Shiawassee Counties.

Mr. Speaker please join me in congratulating Norma Hagenow upon receiving the Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award from the Tall Pine Council. I commend her for her service to the community and wish her the best in the coming years.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES H.  
HORRELL, JR.

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding Federal employee, Mr. Charles H. Horrell, Jr., on the occasion of his retirement from the Department of the Navy after 38½ years of dedicated service to our country.

During his career, Mr. Horrell's contributions to the Navy have varied, ranging from naval gun ammunition to aircraft carriers. He has specialized in multiple career fields including engineering, logistics, and program management. From this diverse portfolio he has risen through the ranks from junior project engineer to senior leadership.

Mr. Horrell began his career in 1968 as a project engineer for air launched weapons at the Naval Ordnance Station in Indian Head, MD. Relocating to the Naval Weapons Support Center in Crane, IN, in 1970 he served for 10 years in various design and in-service engineering positions, completing multiple overseas TDY tours in Southeast Asia and South America, and working independently with both deployed U.S. naval forces and foreign navies.

In 1980, he was selected for a position in the Naval Sea Systems Command responsible for the program and life cycle management of conventional naval ammunition. In 1986, he was selected as director of program management in the Mine Warfare Ships Program Office where he oversaw program, logistics and business/financial management operations.

In 1994, he was selected as the director of logistics in the Aircraft Carrier Program Office. He later served in various leadership positions in the Aircraft Carrier Program including deputy program manager and director for in-service carriers. Most recently he was elevated to the position of assistant PEO in the Aircraft Carrier Program Executive Office where he served as the director for strategic planning and alignment and director for human capital planning and management.

Beyond undergraduate studies in physics, his academic pursuits include graduate work in public administration, program management, executive leadership, and business management. He has studied at American University, Virginia Tech, the University of Virginia, Darden, and Duke University, Fuqua School of Business. He is widely recognized

for his expertise in program management; he has achieved membership in the DoD Acquisition Corps and is certified in multiple acquisition career fields.

Throughout his career Mr. Horrell has distinguished himself and earned the respect of his subordinates, peers, and superiors. His contributions have been recognized through the award of both the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Medal, two awards, and the Navy Superior Civilian Service Medal, two awards. He has been a loyal and dedicated civil servant who has contributed unselfishly and with pride to the defense of our Nation. It is my pleasure to acknowledge his distinguished career.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DR. JOHN  
WITHERS

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**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a venerable public servant and retired veteran, Dr. John L. Withers, born on September 18, 1916, in Greensboro, North Carolina and now living in my congressional district.

Dr. Withers served as a first lieutenant during World War II, commanding a segregated African-American quartermaster company, and received an honorable discharge in 1947. Despite strict Army regulations and the difficulties imposed by segregation, Dr. Withers always performed bravely and with the highest moral and ethical standards. Indeed, during the war, Dr. Withers courageously rescued two Polish Jewish orphan boys from the Dachau concentration camp. Thanks to his heroic efforts, one of those boys became a successful businessman in Connecticut. Dr. Withers stayed in touch with that young man all of his life.

After serving as a professor at Wayne State University in Detroit, Dr. Withers devoted his life to international development efforts. He was stationed in Laos, Thailand and Burma before serving with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Seoul, Korea in 1960. Later, he worked as a USAID representative in India before becoming Director of USAID's regional services office in Nairobi, Kenya. His primary responsibility included supporting the operations of various USAID missions in nine African countries, including Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia. His last duty before retiring was to serve as USAID Mission Director for Ethiopia.

Dr. Withers recently celebrated his 90th birthday with his devoted wife Daisy and his sons John Jr. and Gregory. I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join with me in honoring Dr. Withers on this wonderful occasion and to recognize him as a man of good deeds, a sharp wit, gentle sense of humor and outstanding accomplishments. I am delighted to wish Dr. Withers a year of good health and happiness and to thank him for his extraordinary contributions to our country.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR SHEILA  
YOUNG

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Sheila Young upon her retirement as Mayor of the City of San Leandro, California. Mayor Young has served from 1998 to 2006 and is the only female mayor in the city's 135-year history to serve two complete terms of office.

Mayor Young's distinguished public service is noteworthy. She served two terms as Chair of the Women Mayors of America within the U.S. Conference of Mayors Caucus, has represented all of the cities in Alameda County as a Director/Commissioner with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and has served as President of the Alameda County Mayors Conference. In June 2006, she received the Distinguished Service Award from the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

As the first elected Co-Chair of the Oakland Airport Noise Forum, Mayor Young served for 8 years and is currently Ambassador to the Forum working nationwide on issues of importance in aviation and community involvement.

Mayor Young is actively involved as a speaker and expert in disaster preparedness for Alameda County. She is a charter member of Sundance Summit, a Mayor's Gathering on Climate Protection, and was a participant in the 2003 Jerusalem Conference of Mayors in Israel.

Her other accomplishments during her exemplary tenure as mayor included the creation of the Mayor's Community Fund in San Leandro to assist nonprofit organizations as well as her oversight over the largest building period in the history of the city of San Leandro, including the development of the new Marina Auto Mall, the rebirth and rebuilding of Bayfair Center, the creation of the new U.S. Postal Service Distribution Center, as well as an increase in new quality housing.

Mayor Young has received numerous awards and certificates for her outstanding contributions locally, statewide and nationally. She is engaged in a host of community and civic activities and is active on the speaker circuit sharing her knowledge about city government, environmental and transportation issues and public policy.

A retirement event will be held in the Mayor's honor on January 19, 2007. I join the city, her friends, colleagues and admirers in thanking Sheila Young for her dedication and commitment. She leaves an indelible mark of positive change.

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A TRIBUTE TO ALTON A. BURTON,  
PE

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**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Alton A. Burton, PE, a distinguished member of the New York City community. It behooves us to pay tribute to this

outstanding leader and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing his impressive accomplishments.

During the course of history there have been a select few people known as visionaries. Mr. Burton is one these visionaries that view our world not as it necessarily is, but as it can be.

Alton A. Burton was a U.S. Air Force lieutenant, serving as bombardier, navigator, and pilot during World War II. After distinguished service in our Armed Forces as a Tuskegee Airman, Mr. Burton pursued the power of ideas through higher education by obtaining a Bachelor of Science and Masters Degrees in Civil Engineering. He also obtained a license as a Professional Engineer, PE, in the State of New York. Soon after receiving his degrees and license, Alton A. Burton, PE, joined the staff of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey in design engineering. Mr. Burton's assignments included contract plans for various facilities, including marine terminals. Little did Mr. Burton know that he was being positioned by the hand of destiny for something more. During the 1950s and 60s, Mr. Burton toiled in the eye of the storm of civil and political unrest, a time of cultural, human and civil rights crisis. Against all odds, Alton A. Burton was able to understand the situation and conditions of a racially charged environment and era that would have been deemed impossible. In 1962, the late Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York, appointed Mr. Burton the Chief Civil Engineer in charge of the planning phase of the multi-billion dollar project known as the World Trade Center.

In the minds of most Americans, the deeply disturbing images of the inferno that engulfed the Twin Towers and then the crumbling to the ground after being hit by two hijacked commercial airliners 5 years ago on 9-11-01, will never be forgotten. Most of us are unaware that over 40 years ago, Chief Civil Engineer Alton A. Burton designed and fortified the infrastructure, which accounted for the reliability of the Twin Tower structures to withstand tremendous force, including that of an earthquake. Chief Civil Engineer Alton A. Burton and his team of civil engineers had no idea that some 40 or so years later, terrorists would fly jets into the towers. Because of the fortification of the infrastructure, due to Mr. Burton's vision and preparation for the unexpected, the towers as damaged as they were, managed to hold—giving our first responders, EMS, NYPD, FDNY and other emergency units a grace period to do what they do best, save lives. If not for Chief Civil Engineer Alton A. Burton's vision of a fortified infrastructure, the World Trade Center's Twin Towers would have immediately toppled to the streets below. With steel beams heating to over 3000 degrees F, the infrastructure still managed to endure. The North Tower held for 1 hour 42 minutes and the South Tower for 56 minutes before the total collapse. We note with regret that approximately 3,000 lives were lost that infamous day and we offer our sincere condolences to their families. However, keeping in mind Mr. Burton's efforts to fortify the infrastructure with the best materials known to architectural and civil engineering at that time, between 10,000 and 20,000 individuals were safely evacuated from the towers and surrounding areas, so many more lives were saved.

Chief Alton A. Burton's prolific civil engineering work carries with it profound moral and